Development of Inland Waterways for transportation of goods

132. SHRl SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to revive goods transportation by Inland Waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, why does Government not plan to develop such inland waterways for cheaper mode of transport and also to utilise water resources for such purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following three waterways have been declared as National Waterways and are being developed for shipping and navigation:—

(i) Allahabad Haldia stretch of Ganga (National Waterway No. 1)

(ii) Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of river Brahmaputra (National Waterway No. 2)

(iii) Kollam-Kottapuram strentch of West Cost Canal alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal (National Waterway No. 3). New waterways will be declared in view of the availability of funds during the 9th Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Four Laning of National Highways

133. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) when the work on laying highway linking the North with South and East with West tips of the country is likely to commence;

(b) whether double or four laning of ail National Highways in the country is also being taken up;

(c) if so, whether any time frame has been finalised in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN), (a) The work has already commenced with the laying of foundation stone by Prime Minister on 02.01.1999 near Bangalore.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Development of national highway is a continuous process. The entire national highway network in the country has to be upgraded to a 2 or more lane width depending upon the traffic density. Achievements under this programme will depend on availability of funds.

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways in Gujarat

134. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat have sent proposals for conversion of a number of State Highways into National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many out of them have been agreed to by Government for conversion into the National Highways; and

(d) the time by which its remaining State Highways will be converted into National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes Sir, the State Government had sent proposals for including 13 stretches of different roads for conversion into National Highways.

The details are given in the Statement (Sec below)

(c) 3 proposals out of these at SI. No. 2, 3 & 4 aggregating to a length of approximately 358 kms. have been declared as new national highways in Gujarat vide notification dated 6th January, 1999.

(d) This is a continuous process subject to fulfilling of requisite criteria.